

Message Text

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14

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1193

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ECON, ELAB, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION DELEGATION ACHIEVEMENTS

REF: BELFAST 57

1. ON RETURN TO NORTHERN IRELAND FEB. 5 FOLLOWING TWO DAY VISIT TO LONDON (REFTEL) SPOKESMEN FOR IRISH CONGRESS TRADE UNIONS (ICTU) CLAIMED POSITIVE ADVANCES IN CAMPAIGN "BETTER LIFE FOR ALL." THESE INCLUDE AGREEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER TO CHAIR A MEETING IN PROVINCE SOON OF NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, SIGNING OF "BETTER LIFE" PETITION BY 80 WESTMINSTER MPS, AGREEMENT OF THE TUC TO SUPPORT AN ICTU 18 POINT PLAN TO EASE UNEMPLOYMENT, ASSURANCES THAT AGRICULTURAL EARNINGS SUBSIDIES WOULD BE CONTINUED, FURTHER PLANS TO ESTABLISH FORMAL LINKS BETWEEN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY AND NATIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD, AND ESTABLISHMENT FORMAL TIES BETWEEN BELFAST SHIPYARD AND SHIPBUILDING INDUSTRY BOARD AND BETWEEN SHORT BROTHERS AND HARLAND AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRY BOARD. JACK CURLIS, CHAIRMAN NORTHERN IRELAND COMMITTEE ICTU SAID READINESS OF MR. WILSON TO ACCEPT INVITATION WAS FURTHER PROOF OF GOVERNMENT ASSERTIONS THAT THERE WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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NO PLAN FOR ECONOMIC WITHDRAWAL FROM PROVINCE.

2. COLONEL JAMES SLEATOR LOCAL SECRETARY CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI) PRAISED ACTIVITY OF TRADE-UNIONS, WISHED THEM EVERY SUCCESS AND WELCOMED VISIT BY MR. WILSON AS EDUCATIONAL FOR LATTER. SLEATOR ADDED POINTED REMARKS THAT "... INVESTORS FROM OUTSIDE LOOK TO GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE STABILITY IN WHICH THE INDUSTRIAL FUNCTION CAN OPERATE SUCCESSFULLY. THEREFORE WE THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT INDEED THAT THE RECONVENED CONVENTION SHOULD REALLY GET DOWN TO CASES AND EXAMINE VERY CAREFULLY WHAT THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND WANT. WE THINK THEY WANT BREAD AND BUTTER. WE THINK THEY WANT JOBS. WE THINK THEY WANT PROSPERITY."

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